

Response dated 02/14/2006
Response to Office Action dated 11/16/2005

Application No. 09/864,383

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain comprising the steps of:

receiving, at a processor of a computer system, information about said supply chain of a user, the user being supplied by at least one individual supplier;

receiving input data, at the processor from an input interface of the computer system, the input data concerning at least one of multiple suppliers in said supply chain;

receiving, at the processor from the input interface from the user, a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of said at least one of multiple suppliers;

displaying, on a display device, for at least one selected hierarchical level, performance indicators for said supply chain, said performance indicators relating to the performance of said at least one supplier with regard to other entities in said supply chain; and

producing, by the processor, an evaluation score for said at least one supplier based on said inputted data and the hierarchical identification by combining a plurality of performance measurement components, each performance measurement component corresponding to a different measured time.

2. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, wherein said performance indicators displayed in said displaying step comprise at least one of:

returns, damaged returns group sales, net sales, buying margin, achieved margin, lateness of order, and service level.

3-6. Cancelled

7. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, comprising the further step of comparing said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.

8-9. Cancelled

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10. **(Original)** A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, comprising the further step of comparing said performance indicators for multiple suppliers.

11-15. **Cancelled**

16. **(Original)** A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, comprising the further step of providing for input of anecdotal information.

17. **(Original)** A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, comprising the further step of linking said evaluation score to a product type.

18. **(Original)** A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, comprising the further step of ranking multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

19. **(Original)** A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, comprising the further step of restricting said inputting step to authorized personnel.

20-76. **Cancelled**

77. **(Original)** A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, comprising the further step of providing a bulletin board so that users may communicate to assess and evaluating the supply base.

78. **Cancelled**

79. **(Original)** A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 77, comprising the further step of defining a removal time for a message at which time a message will be automatically removed.

80-92. **Cancelled**

93. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-implemented method comprising:

receiving, at a processor of a computer system from an input interface, data concerning at least one of a plurality of suppliers;

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receiving, at the processor, information about a supply chain of a user, the user being supplied by at least one individual supplier;

receiving, at the processor from the input interface from the user, a request relating to at least one supplier of said supply chain, the request including a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of said at least one supplier; and

generating, by the processor for at least one selected hierarchical level, at least one performance indicator for said supply chain by combining a plurality of performance measurement components, each performance measurement component corresponding to a different measured time, said at least one performance indicator relating to the at least one supplier with respect to at least one other supplier.

94. (Original) The method as recited in claim 93, further comprising producing an evaluation score for the at least one supplier.

95. Cancelled

96. (Original) A method as recited in claim 93, comprising the further step of producing an evaluation score for said at least one supplier based on said inputted data.

97-100. Cancelled

101. (Original) A method as recited in claim 96, comprising the further step of comparing said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.

102-103. Cancelled

104. (Original) A method as recited in claim 93, comprising the further step of comparing said performance indicators for multiple suppliers.

105-109. Cancelled

110. (Original) A method as recited in claim 93, comprising the further step of providing for input of anecdotal information.

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111. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 93, comprising the further step of linking said evaluation score to a product type.

112. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 93, comprising the further step of ranking multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

113-152. **Cancelled**

153. **(Currently Amended)** A method comprising:

logging into a system that contains data concerning suppliers of a supply chain of a user, the user being supplied by at least one individual supplier;

receiving, from the user, a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of the suppliers;

sending a request for performance information concerning the suppliers;

receiving information about said supply chain;

receiving the performance information; and

evaluating, for at least one selected hierarchical level, the suppliers for said supply chain based on the performance information by combining a plurality of performance measurement components, each performance measurement component corresponding to a different measured time.

154. **Cancelled**

155. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 153, further comprising producing an evaluation score for the at least one supplier.

156. **Cancelled**

157. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 154, comprising the further step of producing an evaluation score for said at least one supplier based on said inputted data.

158-161. **Cancelled**

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162. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 157, comprising the further step of comparing said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.

163-164. **Cancelled**

165. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 154, comprising the further step of comparing said performance information for multiple suppliers.

166-170. **Cancelled**

171. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 154, comprising the further step of providing for input of anecdotal information.

172. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 154, comprising the further step of linking said evaluation score to a product type.

173. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 154, comprising the further step of ranking multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

174-213. **Cancelled**

214. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining a criterion to gauge said performance indicators.

215. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein said step of determining said supply chain comprises:

selecting said supply chain from a plurality of supply chains.

216-217. **Cancelled**

218. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the hierarchical identification comprises the first hierarchical level and the second hierarchical level, further comprising:

comparing the performance of said at least one supplier at a first hierarchical level with another supplier at a second hierarchical level.

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219. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, further comprising:
inputting a performance identification of a performance indicator; and
trending the performance indicator over a period of time for said at least one of
multiple suppliers.
220. **Cancel**